

RECOGNIZING MOBILE COUNTY  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY JOHN  
TYSON AND HIS WORK IN CRE-  
ATING THE ALABAMA SECRET  
SAFE PLACE PROGRAM

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 30, 2008*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mobile County District Attorney John Tyson for his leadership and support in creating the Nation's first Secret Safe Place for Newborns program in Mobile, Alabama. As Mobile's Press-Register recently editorialized, "'Saving newborns' lives is a legacy of which Mobile can be proud."

The brainchild of former WPML-TV reporter Jodi Brooks, the Alabama Secret Safe Place program was created in 1998 through the hard work and support of John Tyson. Due to his leadership, every State has established a program similar to Alabama's as an option for mothers who are unable and unprepared to provide for their newborn baby.

These programs allow mothers to turn over their newborns to a local hospital, fire station, police station, or other public entity without being charged with a crime. Within the time limit set by each State's law, the mothers are able to remain anonymous and will not be accused of child neglect. The mothers also continue to have the opportunity, if they wish to change their minds, to return and reclaim their child.

When the Secret Safe Place for Newborns program began, it was all too common for distraught mothers, in most cases teenagers, to abandon their newborns in trash cans or in public places hoping someone would discover them. Some even went so far as to murder their unwanted babies. Due in large part to John's efforts, an estimated 500 newborns across the country have been saved over the past 10 years because of infant safe haven programs.

John often serves as the spokesman for infant safe haven programs speaking to media outlets throughout the country and around the world on efforts to combat the unsafe abandonment of newborns.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending District Attorney John Tyson and so many others for their efforts on behalf of newborns in Alabama and across the country. The success of the Alabama Secret Safe Place for Newborns program is a tribute to their efforts to save infants' lives—they are true heroes.

GREATER HOUSTON CONCERNS OF  
POLICE SURVIVORS (C.O.P.S.)

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 30, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the Greater Houston Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) was created to help provide resources to assist surviving families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. This noble organization helps rebuild the lives of those they help, and provides training to

law enforcement agencies on survivor victimization issues. They also educate the public on ways to show support for law enforcement professions and their survivors.

The Greater Houston C.O.P.S. instituted two programs that the public can join to show support for the fallen officers and their families. Project Blue Light gets residents to place a blue light in a window of a home or business. By keeping the blue lights burning, it is a constant reminder to everyone that law enforcement officers serve and protect the public "every day, every minute, and every second of the year."

The Blue Ribbon Program encourages the public and law enforcement personnel to tie blue ribbons to their car antennas during National Police Week. C.O.P.S. hopes the blue ribbons are a reminder to the public that many law enforcement officers have already paid the ultimate price and given their lives in the line of duty. They also encourage the public to display their blue ribbons outside of National Police Week, to honor those officers who are in our communities each day, putting their lives on the line to keep the public safe.

The Greater Houston C.O.P.S. is an active chapter of the national organization of Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. and continues to advocate for citizens in the Greater Houston area to support the law enforcement officers lost, still serving, and the families of these officers.

I applaud C.O.P.S. and Greater Houston C.O.P.S. for their dedication and commitment to law enforcement and their families.

Senior Police Officer Gary A. Gryder assigned to the Southeast Division, Paroled Offender's Unit, while directing traffic was struck and killed at Katy Freeway West service road at Highway 6 on Sunday, June 29, 2008. Officer Gryder was a twenty-three (23) year veteran of the Department joining on January 7, 1985, entering Police Academy Class No. 126. He is survived by his wife, Retired Senior Police Officer Debra L. Gryder, who served the Department for over twenty-seven (27) years, his son, Austin A. Gryder and a daughter, Jennifer Streeter. He is also survived by his Father-in-law, Retired Police Officer Alfred B. Lewis, who retired from the Department after serving over thirty-one (31) years, on March 2, 1981.

Madam Speaker, I attended the funeral of Officer Gryder along with hundreds of other citizens. His wife, Debbie, and his family now join the ranks of C.O.P.S. Our communities need to constantly remember our fallen police and their families that will need to continue on without their loved ones.

And that's just the way it is.

ON THE BIRTH OF MADELYN  
CLAIRE KAPLAN AND AINSLEY  
ELIZABETH KAPLAN

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 30, 2008*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my friend Andrew Kaplan and his wife Danleigh Kaplan of Washington on the birth of their new twin girls. Madelyn Claire Kaplan and Ainsley Elizabeth Kaplan were born on July 27, 2008,

weighing 5 pounds 2 ounces and 5 pounds 8 ounces respectively. Madelyn and Ainsley have been born into a loving home where they will be raised by parents who are devoted to their well-being and bright future.

I am so excited for this new addition to the Kaplan family. On behalf of my wife Roxanne and our entire family, we want to wish Andrew, Danleigh, Madelyn, and Ainsley all the best.

HONORING WANDA WILSON, CRNA,  
PhD, MSN, PRESIDENT OF THE  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
NURSE ANESTHETISTS

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 30, 2008*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to Wanda Wilson, CRNA, PhD, MSN, of the University of Cincinnati and president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, located in my congressional district. Ms. Wilson will soon complete her year as the 2007–2008 national president of the AANA, the professional organization representing more than 39,000 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, CRNAs, and student nurse anesthetists in the United States. She has provided strong leadership in advocating for the practice of nurse anesthesia and the patients who CRNAs serve every day.

Founded in 1931, the AANA celebrates its 77th anniversary as the professional association representing CRNAs, advanced practice nurses who administer approximately 30 million anesthetics in the U.S. every year. CRNAs practice in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered: traditional hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms; critical access hospitals; ambulatory surgical centers; the offices of dentists, podiatrists, ophthalmologists, plastic surgeons, and pain management specialists; and U.S. military, Public Health Service, and Department of Veterans Affairs health care facilities.

CRNAs provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases and, in some states, are the sole anesthesia providers in the vast majority of rural hospitals, affording these medical facilities obstetrical, surgical and trauma stabilization services.

A resident of Cincinnati, Ohio, Ms. Wilson earned her doctorate in nursing science and physiology, a master's degree in nursing, a bachelor's degree in nursing and a bachelor's degree in science from the University of Cincinnati. She also received her nurse anesthesia diploma from Cincinnati General Hospital and her nursing diploma from Holzer Medical Center in Gallipolis, Ohio. A longtime member of the AANA, Ms. Wilson has held numerous leadership positions and served as regional director, treasurer, vice-president, and president-elect before becoming the national president of the AANA in 2007. In addition, Ms. Wilson has served terms as president and president-elect and as a member of the board of directors for the Ohio State Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

She is also the program director at the University of Cincinnati's College of Nursing, Nurse Anesthesia Major, which has been ranked one of the top nurse anesthesia educational programs nationally by U.S. News and World Report.